

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 02336 260829Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 /102 W
-----059746 270414Z /11

R 260820Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8353
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 02336

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MT, GW
SUBJECT: MALTESE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING BRIEFING ON
LAST WEEK'S VISIT TO BONN BY FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA.
2. ABELA MET WITH VISCHNEVSKY AND, IF OUR UNDERSTANDING
IS CORRECT, SEPARATELY WITH VON WELL AND BLECH. ABELA
MADE ANTICIPATED PITCH FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE, STATING THAT
MALTA EXPECTS TOTAL OF 14 MILLION MALTESE POUNDS FROM
EUROPEANS AND EUROPEAN RESPONSE MUST BE IN HAND BY JULY 31
OR MALTA WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO "TURN TO SOUTHERN
NEIGHBORS." AS ABELA PUT IT, PLEDGE OF NEUTRALITY BY
MALTA REQUIRED A QUID PRO QUO FROM ITS NEIGHBORS. GRANT
ASSISTANCE WAS NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO ABELA, BECAUSE
MALTA WAS NOT PREPARED WITH SUFFICIENT PROJECTS TO ABSORB
LOANS FOR PROJECT ASSISTANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 02336 260829Z

3. GERMANS RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO PAY
FOR MALTESE NEUTRALITY. GRANT BUDGETARY AID HAD BEEN
POSSIBLE UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT ENDING MARCH 31, 1979
BECAUSE IT WAS ASSISTANCE FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES AND IN THE
INTEREST OF NATO. THAT SITUATION HOWEVER WOULD NO LONGER
APPLY AFTER MARCH 31, 1979.

4. GERMANY WAS PREPARED HOWEVER TO EXTEND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AS IT HAD ALSO BEEN DOING IN THE PAST, AND IT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING SUCH ASSISTANCE ON BETTER CONDITIONS. GERMANY WAS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VIS-A-VIS CAPITAL LENDING. APPARENTLY GERMANS ALSO INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ENCOURAGING THE EC TO INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE TO MALTA.

5. GERMAN AMBASSADOR, WHO SAID THIS INFORMATION WAS ON BASIS OF TELEPHONE BRIEFING BY BLANKENSTEIN, SAID ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AT OUTSET OF TALKS BUT DID NOT REMAIN SO AFTER GERMANS INDICATED LIMITATIONS ON WHAT THEY COULD DO. ABELA INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO STAY ON IN BONN IN HOPES THAT GERMANS WOULD RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION, BUT HE WAS NOT ENCOURAGED TO DO SO GIVEN GERMAN INSISTENCE THEY SAW NO LIKELIHOOD OF MODIFICATION OF GERMAN POSITION ON BUDGETARY AID.

6. ABOVE WAS LARGELY CONFIRMED BY ABELA IN CONVERSATION WITH US JULY 24. ABELA SAID HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT GERMANS WOULD COME THROUGH WITH THE ASSISTANCE NEEDED BY MALTA WERE BORNE OUT BY HIS VISIT. HOWEVER HE INDICATED SOME SATISFACTION THAT HE HAD AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE VON WELL OF THE ECONOMIC RATIONALE FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 02336 260829Z

MALTA'S NEED FOR BUDGETARY AID. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT YET PRODUCE SOME CHANGE IN GERMAN POSITION DURING THE "NEW LOOK" AT THE SITUATION WHICH HE SAID VON WELL PROMISED BEFORE FINAL GERMAN POSITION WHICH WOULD APPARENTLY BE REFLECTED IN ANTICIPATED SCHMIDT RESPONSE TO MINTOFF LETTER OF APRIL. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET02336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0624
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780716/aaaaanvn.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ee5576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1874463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALTESE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN
TAGS: PEPR, MT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ee5576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014